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THE GENERAL CONFERENCE.

The Seventy-Fourth Annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will be held in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, on Sunday, April 3, 1904, and continue until Wednesday, April 6. A general attendance of the officers and members is requested animated by the most friendly

> JOSEPH F. SMITH, JOHN R. WINDER, ANTHON H. LUND, First Presidency.

IS IT TEACHING POLYGAMY?

The following dispatch appears in Chicago Record-Herald of March

"Detroit, March 6,- Polygamy must be accepted as a legitimate religious custom by all who accept the Bible as the actual word of God.' This state ment was made today by Rev. Reed Stuart, paster of the First Unitarian church of this city and one of the lead ers of the denomination in the United

'Our Constitution does not curtail religious freedom,' he continued, 'and l the lawyers to find a basis for any legal principle there which will interfere with it. While I myself am not a believer in the tenets of polygamy, it is because I do not believe in Bible that accepts it-in fact, advocates it in the old laws for the

"He said there were many things to be said in favor of polygamy, and that the religious practices of the Mormons should be respected, provided their polygamy did not lead to immorality, ac-

cording to their standard." Will the casulsts who construe the replies which "Mormon" Elders and writers have had to make, to questions about or attacks upon the origin of the doctrine of a plurality of wives, accuse the Record-Herald of "teaching polygamy?" And will they clamor for the prosecution or public denunciation of the Detroit preacher, under the same charge?

If it is true, as the Detroit pastor asserts, that the Bible teaches and upholds polygamy, why not get out an injunction against those who publish and distribute the Book as "the word of God," or demand the elimination of those parts of it which inculcate, require, permit or condone that practice? If it is an offence to circulate the Doctrine and Covenants because it contains a revelation given in 1843 and publicly proclaimed in 1852, but a part of which has been declared inoperative now, why is it not a similar offence to reprint, and publish, and send throughout the world the Bible, which the Detroit minister shows is also an advocate and exponent of polygamy?

The shallow pretenses set forth to implicate even monogamous "Mormons" as "teachers of polygamy," because of what someone else has done or said, or has refrained from doing or announcing, that somebody objects to, are so silly and illogical that rational people should cast them aside, as they would the ravings of so many idiots or lun-

"OUT OF ITS OWN MOUTH."

The Tribune tries to wiggle out of its blank contradictions of itself, by pleading that what we quoted from its columns was "an excellent example of the way that the Tribune treats all ters of news, and this especial ret in particular.

just so. It was in that light that we quoted its reprint of the press report of the case before the Senate com. mittee, in contrast to its statement directly in opposition to that report.

The regular dispatches stated that the witness, Mrs. Kennedy, was unable to give a description of the man whom she said performed the marriage ceremony, and could not identify his portrait. The Tribune statement in the same paper was that, "Her description of Apostle. Young who performed the ceremony was exact." Do not these two conflicting statements in the same issue of the Tribune constitute a di-

rect contradiction?

although the girl's mother had tried to get Elder Teasdale to perform the ceremony and he had refused, saying such marriages were "done away," yet the girl voluntarily went away with the man Johnson and his lawful wife to Mexico, after an agreement between the wife and the girl, and the marriage ceremony was performed there, without informing the minister that it was a plural marriage. The Tribune's statement in the same paper that printed the press report was, that the girl "was forced into becoming a plural wife." Is not that another blank con-

tradiction? What is the use of keeping up a dispute on so plain a bit of malicious but customary Tribune deception? Not the slightest evidence was adduced that there was any attempt at "forcing the girl into becoming a plural wife." It was a straight falsehood, proven so by the evidence published in the same paper that printed the untruth.

As the Tribune announces now that it is "an excellent example of the way that the Tribune treats all matters of news," we are content; that is just what we claimed. Now the public will know from its own confession what dependence to place on that paper's relie-ability,

PARAGRAPHS OF HISTORY.

In these days, when the alleged anti-Russian sentiment in the United States is receiving a great deal of attention, it is interesting to recall the cordial relations that existed between this country and Russia during the war that threatened the Union with dissolution.

The New Bedford Mercury tells the story of Mr. Fox's special mission to Russia thirty-seven years ago. Russia had sent us a message of sympathy. In a dispatch to the Russian minister at Washington, dated at St. Petersburg. July 10, 1861, Prince Gortchakoff, vice chancellor and minister of foreign affairs, bade M. de Stoeckel "make known to the Federal Government the deep interest with which our august master was observing the development of a crisis which puts in question the prosperity and even the existence of the Union." The dispatch added:

"If within the limits of your friendly relations your language and counsels may contribute to this result reconciliation), you will respond, sir, to the intentions of his majesty the emperor, in devoting to this the personal nfluence which you may have been able to acquire during your long residence in Washington, and the consider ation which belongs to your character, as the representative of a sovereign ments toward the American Union. This Union is not simply in our eyes an element essential to the universal political equilibrium. It constitutes, besides, a nation to which our august master and all Russia have piedged the most friendly interest; for the two countries, placed at the extremities of the two worlds, both in the ascending period of their development, appear called to a natural community of interests and of sympathies of which they have already given mutual proofs to each other."

But Russian sympathy in that crisis was not confined to words. The emperor sent a fleet to New York and one to San Francisco, and Prince Gortchakoff instructed the Russian minister at Washington, Mr. Stoeckel, to tell Secy. Seward that he was sending the fleet over, "for no unfriendly purpose." The fleet came, and stayed a summer and winter and the general impression was that, while its help would probably not be needed, it would be given if it were

The Los Angeles Times quotes Abraham Lincoln, to show how the Russian service at that time was regarded. President Lincoln said to Seward and

"Gentlemen, this is one of the happlest conferences we have had during these awful years. In the dark days of the past there has been one bright spot always shining out of the sky of our foreign relations. We three know, better than anybody else, the struggles we've made the men we've sent, and the money we've spent to keep Euro-pean nations from interfering in our contest. We've made these efforts in pretty much every important court of Europe, except one, and that is St. Petersburg. To that court we have never sent a man, and on Russia have nev er spent a dollar. She has been our steadfast 'friend from the beginning. Now, it has occurred to me that we three, knowing these things, ought have a common understanding that whoever lives to see the whole country reunited, and again prosperous,ought to do what we can to have our government perform some great national act to show to Russia and the whole world that this government is not ungrate-

In 1866, the life of the Russian em-

peror was saved from the murderous attack of a madman, and Congress con. cluded to show the gratitude of this country to Alexander. So it was resolved to send a special envoy in a na. val vessel to carry the message, and Mr. Fox, the assistant secretary of the navy, was selected for the mission. The double-turreted monitor Miantonomoh was assigned to his service, with the Augusta and the Ashuelot, wooden men-of-war, as convoys. Never before was such a resolution voted or such a mission sent in such an unexampled manner. Mr. Fox and his ships were escorted by the Russian fleet to Cronstadt, and throughout the empire a marvelous ovation was extended our countrymen: There were banquets everywhere, at which the Americans and Russians struck glasses and proclaimed everlasting friendship. Said one Russian speaker: "If nations require friends and must lean toward each other like individuals, here are eighty millions of people, one race, one language, and a unit in their feelings of friendship for the United States."

The Chicago Chronicle calls attention to the fact that we are also indebted to Russia for the sattlement of the Alabama question. At the end of the Franco-Prussian war, England was notifled by Russia that the clause in the treaty of Paris' limiting Russia's power in the Black Sea was abrogated. It was for this that the Crimean War had been fought, and the note was, practically, a challenge to another conflict The Chronicle says:

"Thus placed between a hostile Russia on one side and a hostile America on the other, Great Britain took immediate action to placate American senti-ment. A commission was appointed to decide the Alabama question, which, as all know, resulted in the award that upheld the principle for which America Again: The press report showed that was contending, however unsatisfac-

tory it may have been in the matter of dollars and cents. The eagerness of Great Britain to repair the long-standing injustice was shown by the fact that the British commission was nam. ed and on its way to Washington be-fore the fact was known at the American Legation in London, according to a historian of that period."

These are interesting paragraphs of history. They may explain the disappointment in St. Petersburg over the sentiment now so freely expressed by a large portion of the American press.

Rome was not built in a day of labor

Eternal vigilance is the price of

Dr. Stewart says that Mr. Jackson is out, and Mr. Jackson says: "You're an-

"I forbid," says the Mayor regarding the proposed "bull fight." And the public responds: "Amen."

The motto of the Smoot investigation committee seems to be: Be sure it is interesting, then go ahead.

Herr Mueller insists that officers of the German army practise the water cure on some of their men. The New York Evening Post says

that Mr. Hearst is "unthinkable." Then why spend time thinking about Captain Joseph E. Caine's lyric poem

may lack something of the highest

flight of song, but its "meter" is per-

The Butte copper war has broken out again. Three on each side have been arrested. This certainly is even handed

Andrew Carnegie has been telling the millionaires how to get rid of their surplus wealth. Surely he speaks as one having authority.

The simultaneous rise in the price of flour all over the country really looks like what the law terms "a conspiracy n restraint of trade."

Even if it were a "farce" to try convicts for breaking jail, still it is justified on the ground that a little nonsense now and then is relished by the worst Russia wants to be awfully sure that

troved are absolutely true before confirming them. Senator Hoar's statement about the right of the people to send whom they please to represent the State in the Sen-

ate, was a genuine Hoar frost to the

anti-Smoot protestants.

the rumors that the Vladivostok

stable at Springfield after the horse was gone. Governor Vardaman of Mississippi did much better. He locked the stable before the horse was gone.

Senator Dubois explained to the Smoot investigating committee that he is not a lawyer. The explanation was redundantly needless, as that is, perhaps, the most patent fact in his entire career.

Senator Kearns cannot have failed to be much interested, as a miner, in the Smoot investigation, for the committee before whom it is being held has developed the fact that it is a great pumping

'I by the shore's still brink My skiff unmooor;

Shall I launch forth - perchance to

Or stay, secure?" sings a spring poet. For him it would doubtless be better to stay, but for mankind in general it would be better if he launched.

MORE PRESS COMMENTS.

New York Evening Post.

"It would seem that the exact aim of the Senate investigation of Mr. Smoot has not been clearly understood. Some against Mormonism was contemplated Dread of contamination by a friend of polygamists—though not himself charg-ed with polygamy—has been imagined to be the motive of pure-minded Sena-tors. But this is all a mistake. It was made perfectly plain yesterday that the real objection to Senator Smoot is that he would not be free to vote in the Senate as his judgment and conscience might dictate, but would be controlled by men, or an organization, outside."

"We see, then, that the plan is to purge the Senate of members who are not fre think and say and vote the thing they will. Senator Smoot was admitted on his prima-facle credentials. He is to be turned out, if at all, because the Sen-ate discovers that a body of men in Utah, holding no public office, tell him how he must vote. This is his great offending. He is not a free agent."

He is not a free agent. Ostensibly an untrammelled Senator, passing upon matters of great public concern with open mind, he is in reality the bond slave of an organization. It is this which leaves the noble Beveridge aghast. "Not free to put himself against his associates, even in his vote as a Senator of the United States." Abundant grounds for expulsion in that, Now, we sympathize heartily with this attempt to make the Senate an august assembly of free men. Its debates would be vastly more earnest and effec-tive if its orators knew that the vote would go according to the Weight of argument. As it is, there are too many melancholy cases of a Senator going to a colleague to congratulate him on his magnificent speech, and to add, "You a colleague to congratulate him on his magnificent speech, and to add, "You have thoroughly convinced me, but you can't have my vote." It is not only the "Mormon" Church that has power to bind and loose nonlinally independent Senators. An "Apostle" dictating Senatorial votes is a more novel figure than a Boss, who does the same thing, but really no more fearsome. Logic is logic, that's all we say; and if the Senate is going to turn out a member for ate is going to turn out a member for submitting to outside dictation, Senators might well look at each other in alarm, and ask, "Which of us is safe?" Senate, in casting about to find a reason for expelling Smoot, shall decide that he must go because he is not a free agent, it will have accepted a principle which, if logically applied, would decl-mate its membership even more rapidly than the process of indictment by grand

the case of Senator Smoot. It has almost forgotten him in following the keen scent of the old, primitive trail. It has even lost temporarily its horror of polygamy and its rlace as protector of the family under the spur of that compelling instinct that has inspired the heretic hunter, the public persecu-tor in all ages since men began to live together and be subject to some form of common law. Obviously the only question presently paramount with the senators in charge of this inquiry is whether a devout "Mormon" regards the law of the land or the mandate of his Church as possessing the higher sanction; and which of the two he would obey if they were to impell him in contrary directions. This question, perhaps the sternest that can be set before any human sout,

does not attach to "Mormonism" in any peculiar way. It has really no inherent connection with that or any other form of church government, polity or doc-trine. It has been asked by those in authority ever since authority erected itself upon an austere but savage individualism. Life cannot escape it, be-cause it sets over against each other the two highest choices and asks the trembling being, hovering between two eternities, with his soul's future in the balance, to make his election. It is the question that the Cavalier asked the Puritan, and that the Puritan tossed back to him on the point of his pike; it is the question that femporal and spiritual authorities flung in each others' face for ten centuries; it is the question of the Roman empire the trembling Christian; nay, it is the crux of every dim, religious instinct since first the ideal of a God trembled into shadowy being in the soul of man. * There is no one but the basest who would not die for his most sacred ideals if need be, to whom they are not more than law or country, father or mother or child. Without that fealty to its own self the soul of man would be but a vapor instead of the imperishable stuff of which eternity's fabric is woven. For. ever must we all of us stand in peril between its commands and those of habit, social organization, the The sternest and most inscrutable of all the commandments is that in whose fulfillment we still falter and stumble in the dark: "Render therefore unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's and unto God the things that are God's."

Portland Oregonian.

The Smoot investigation now in progress before a grave and dignified com-mittee of United States Senators is likely to prove conspicuous, by the lack of tangible evidence against the Senator from Utah that will lead to his compulsory retirement from the Senate. President Joseph F. Smith, of the Church of Latter-day Saints, has been too thoroughly schooled in the tenets of his church either to deny or affirm anything, however adroitly he may be questioned, that will have direct bearing upon the matter at issue. He is a Mormon born and bred; he believes in the principles of divine revelation upon which the Mormon Church is founded. He believes in polygamy, in the story literally rendered of the "visit of an an gel in black" to his uncle, Joseph W. Smith, and in the authenticity of the squadron has been attacked and desreport of this visit by his redoubtable

All of this and much more to the same effect President Smith steadfastly believes, or says he does, and there is no reason to doubt the sincerity of his statements. And what of it? Are not religious zealots and emotional ecclesiastics under the protection of our government? If not specially protected, are they not covered, along with other citizens, by the "free and equal" speci-Governor Herrick of Ohio locked the fications of our Constitution and laws?
Who shall dispute the right or deny to this gray-bearded apostle of a patriarchal creed the privilege of believing the story of "revealed religion" according to the Book of Mormon? And coming closer to the subject in hand, who shall say "nay" to Senator Smoot's "yea" when interrogated upon the same

Butte Miner.

The opponents of Senator Smoot ex. hibit considerable elation-if reports to that effect be true-over the fact that President Smith candidly admitted conditions known to exist, rather than sought to evade them.

Unless it appears, however, in the progress of the investigation, that Mr. Smoot is personally violating the federal statutes relating to polygamy, the testimony of President Smith as to the tenets of the Church will have no specific bearing on the eligibility of the senator.

Even if it be shown that Mr. Smoot, as a dignitary of the Church, believes in the doctrine of polygamy-though not practising it-his right to a seat in the upper house of Congress cannot be

It is not a question of the merits or demerits of the Mormon religion. demerits of the Mormon religion, whether Joseph Smith, the founder of the Church, was or was not interviewed by an angel and directed where the so-called golden plates could be found-whether Brigham Young or King Solomon had the greater right to practise polygamy and recommend it to the world—but purely a question as to whether Mr. Smoot, having been legal-ly elected to the senate, is legally en-titled to his seat, as a law-abiding cit-

Under our constitution each man's eligibility to office must depend upon matters personal to himself, rather than upon his religious or political affiliations, and should the present investigation by the senate committee arouse popular sentiment against the Mormon Church—to a degree heretofore un-known—the right of Utah to representation in congress cannot be denied, nor can the right of its people to select their

can the right of its people to select their own representatives be abridged.

Insofar as Senator Smoot individually meets the conditions of eligibility prescribed by the constitution and the laws governing the election of senators, and is free of any violation of the statutes made and provided, his right to a seat in the senate cannot be questioned, and his expulsion would be an outrage upon the principles of a republican upon the principles of a republican form of government.

Hatred of the tenets of the Mormon

faith should cut no figure in determining the rights and privileges of

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

The North American Review for March contains what is claimed to be the first authoritative statement regarding the Russo-Japanese conflict garding the Russo-Japanese conflict written for an American publication. It is by a Japanese diplomat of the highest standing. His Excellency Ko-gora Takahira, Japanese minister to the United States, gives an illuminat-ing explanation of the reason "Why Japan Resists Russia." Sydney Brooks writes of "England and the War," dis-Sydney Brooks cussing the probability of Great Britain's being drawn into the conflict be-tween Russia and Japan. Wharton Barker advocates an "American Com-mercial Union" in the western hemis-phere. Dr. J. Scott Keltie, secretary of the Royal Geographical society, gives an account of the various expeditions now engaged in "The Polar Campaign." In "Anti-Canteen Legislation and the Army," Chas. E. Littlefield replies to the critics of the law which prohibits the sale of beer and intoxicating liquors in American military quarters. Wong Kai Kah, Chinese Vice-Commissioner to the St. Louis Fair, finds "A Menace to America's Far-Eastern Trade" in the abuses of our customs officers in ad-ministering the provisions of the Chi-nese exclusion law menace and the conhan the process of indictment by grand ury.

St. Paul Globe.

The Senate has gone far afield from ministering the provisions of the Chinese exclusion law which apply to the exempt class—merchants, students and visitors for pleasure or curiosity. Other timely subjects are also interestingly discussed.—New York.

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